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Chief, Materials Division

14 July 1958

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RR/D/M/CH

Request from IRA/DRS for Information on US-Soviet Trade

1. With reference to the memo of 7 July 1958 from Mr. Herbert Block, IRA/DRS, requesting information relating to the possibility of stepped-up US-Soviet trade in chemicals and chemical equipment, M/CH can do the following:

a. Potential Soviet dollar earnings from exports to the US - Based on the current composition of Soviet exports and related information, a list of chemicals which the Soviet Union would probably be able to export could be quickly compiled. Any estimate of the total value of exportable surpluses of chemicals, however much research time was invested, would be highly conjectural.

b. Soviet imports of chemicals from the US - A list of chemicals which the Soviet Union would probably be interested in purchasing could also be drawn up. As in the case of 1(a) above, it is extremely doubtful if a meaningful estimate of the total value of such imports could be made.

c. US imports of equipment from the USSR - No information is available in M/CH which would indicate the Soviet Union has chemical equipment or technology that the US would be interested in importing. This question should be referred to [REDACTED] 25X1A9a

d. Consequences of extensive US exports of chemical equipment to the USSR - The economic and military significance of such exports would be considerable. M/CH could quickly supply a brief analysis based on currently available information. It is doubtful that extensive research would add appreciably to the conclusions.

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